

Jennifer Wampler - DCR Greenways and Trails E-News

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Greenways and Trails Program E-News

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Tobacco Heritage Trail Milestone

In late December, the [Tobacco Heritage Trail](#), a major section of the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail, grew significantly under the stewardship of Roanoke River Rails to Trails. Thanks to Land and Water Conservation funds and the Virginia Works Program, the acquisition of over 100 miles of abandoned rail line is complete. Thanks to the Tobacco Commission and stimulus funding, construction of the 17 miles between Lawrenceville and LaCrosse is underway, and a four-mile section from LaCrosse to Brodnax is complete.

Upcoming Grants

DMV's Highway Safety Office is preparing to release their 2011 Grant [Application](#). Grant Writing Workshops will

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Welcome to the DCR Greenways and Trails Program News Group. Scroll down for information on how to unsubscribe or update your profile.

Virginia Greenways and Trails Task Force Report

The Greenways and Trails Task Force has completed their report on [Virginia's Long Distance Trail Network](#), an overall strategy for the creation of an interconnected system of long-distance trails in the state. This report includes an inventory of existing conditions, a vision for the network, and a focused list of nine actions needed to accomplish the vision and link regional and community trail systems throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you to the volunteers and agency staff who contributed so much time discussing, reviewing and commenting on this report. A special thanks to Ursula Lemanski with the [National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program](#) for her assistance facilitating meetings and helping to develop this report.

Click [here](#) for four-color summary.

New Trails and Blueways Council Guides Trail Development in Prince William County

by Emily Patterson

Prince William County is taking a different kind of approach to developing new biking, hiking and equestrian trails in the county. Instead of telling residents which projects are important, the Board of Supervisors and Park Authority created a way for citizens to advise them.

The Board and the Park Authority established the Trails and Blueways Council, a committee that advises the bodies

only be conducted for first-time applicants or new individuals who will be handling the grant process. One aspect of the grant supports funding for enforcement or public information that will mitigate pedestrian and bicycle safety problems. All grant applications must be submitted by March 15, 2010.

[Preserve America Grants](#) are now available through the National Park Service. The deadline is Feb. 12. Grants are available to assist local economies find self-sustaining ways to promote and preserve their cultural and natural resources through heritage tourism.

DCR is preparing to release their [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) grant applications. Please check the Web site for updates later this month.

[Funding opportunities in Virginia](#)

[Grants.gov](#) is the federal funding site for 1000 grant programs offered by 26 agencies.

Federal Guidance for Bicycle Facility Development Released

By Jakob Helmboldt

The [2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD) is now available online. The MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices (signs, pavement markings, or signals) on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public traffic.

The 2009 Edition has been long awaited as it makes official new elements that should enhance bicycle and pedestrian accommodations including pedestrian countdown signals, the bicycle shared lane marking otherwise known as "sharrows", and improved bike route signage, notably the M1-8a (sample below from the Potomac Heritage Trail), among other changes.

on priorities and funding for its trail projects. The group was set up in February and began meeting this fall. It is made up of 16 Prince William County residents; the Park Authority and Board each appoint eight representatives.

"This involves the citizens in helping us set priorities and heighten the awareness for the need of these trail systems throughout the county," said Park Authority Executive Director Jay Ellington. "It lets the citizens be the voice and lets them say what is important."

The group will serve as advisors on three main undertakings: The Potomac Heritage Trail, a national scenic trail that will run through the county east of Interstate 95; the Neabsco Creek Trail, a multi-use trail connecting several Park Authority properties in the Eastern part of the county, and the Catharpen Creek Trail that will link a PWC park with the Manassas National Battle Field in the west. The council will also advise the local government on new projects to connect existing trails - creating an extensive network of multi-use trails.

The members of Trails and Blueways Council are currently bringing themselves up to speed on the county's latest trail projects.

"I think it's going to be very successful," said Ellington. "It's a very energetic and interactive group of concerned citizens."

Interpreting the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

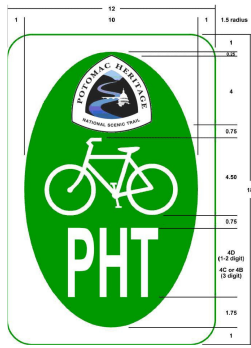
By: Don Briggs

The rich history, culture and set of outdoor recreational experiences associated with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is both a strength and a dilemma. Few corridors in the United States can claim such complexity and national significance, but developing continuity of experience is a challenge. To address this issue, the Trail Office, along with many partners, has completed a set of graphic identity guidelines, two wayside exhibit plans, and contributed to or published a complementary set of brochures.

Specifically, a new suite of orientation and interpretive wayside exhibits are being installed along Trail segments in northern Virginia, the culmination of a two and one-half year planning and production process. A new bicycling route sign is being produced, according to national standards, for on-road segments.

Click [here](#) for more information.





J. Helmboldt leaves VDOT

Many of you will be sad to hear that Jakob Helmboldt is leaving VDOT; where he has served as bicycle/pedestrian coordinator. He won't be far away--as he has joined engineering, planning and environmental sciences firm Vanesse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc. He will be working specifically with their bike/ped team, primarily out of their Richmond office. The Virginia Bicycling Federation recently honored Jakob with their Bike Friendly Award for his service while at VDOT.

News from the Great Eastern Trail!

New Basore's Ridge Shelter in Frederick

By: Tom Johnson

In 2009 the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) dedicated a shelter on the Virginia section of the Tuscarora/Great Eastern Trail. The new shelter, on land that PATC purchased in 2008 in Frederick County, Virginia, is an eye-catching addition to the trail system. And just north of that location a new shelter is planned, on land owned by PATC north of Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area. Both shelters are funded by [REI](#) grants, but are built entirely by [PATC](#) volunteers.



Major relocations are in progress in several areas of Northern Virginia, spurred by the district manager, Walt Smith. A large relocation over Devils Nose in Sleepy Creek WMA was constructed by the Cadillac Crew, led by Jon and Katharine Rindt. This relocation gets the GET off of a jeep road and onto a very scenic, hikers-only, trail over the Devils Nose promontory. For more information, click [here](#).

East Coast Greenway Interim Route Mapped!



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
State Parks • Soil & Water Conservation • Natural Heritage
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance • Land Conservation
Outdoor Recreation Planning • Dam Safety & Floodplains

Reports

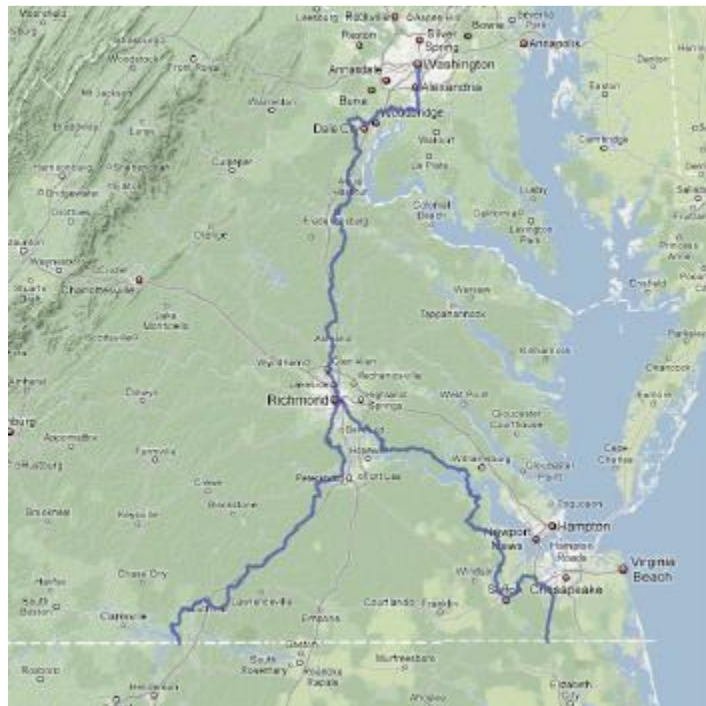
[Comprehensive Plan](#) for the Spearhead Trails Initiative

[Virginia's Long-Distance Trail Network: Connecting Our Commonwealth](#)

The Virginia Active Transportation report webinar is a review of findings from the [2009 study on bicycle and pedestrian planning](#) and resources conducted by BikeWalk Virginia with the assistance of the DMV, VDOT, and communities across the state.

[Reserve](#) your Webinar seat now .

California Rails-with-Trails
[A Survey of Trails Along Active](#)



The interim on-road route of the [East Coast Greenway](#) through Virginia has been mapped following a series of public meetings last spring. A Traveler's Guide, funded through VDOT's Enhancement Program, is under development for release in 2010.

[Rail Lines](#)

Conferences

[March 9-11-National Bike Summit 2010](#)

Washington, DC

[February 7-10-Annual Corps Forum](#)

Washington, DC

[March 13-VA Horse Council Annual Meeting & Educational Seminar](#)

Colonial Downs, New Kent, VA

[February 20-25-Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week](#)

Washington, DC

[June 5- National Trails Day](#)

Plan Your Event!

[July 15-17- Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference](#)

Norcross, GA

[September 13-17- Pro Walk/Pro Bike](#)

Chattanooga, TN

[November 14-17-National Trails Symposium](#)

Chattanooga, TN

*DCR Trails Program Mission:
Provide assistance and education
to encourage the development,
maintenance and promotion of
attractive, sustainable and
connected trails throughout the
state.*

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Recreation
Planning and Recreation
Resource Division

New tool for planning long-distance trails

Virginia Trails and Routes Inventory

The Center for Geospatial Information Technology at Virginia Tech has completed a first generation trails and routes inventory for Virginia. This tool was developed to provide a consistent methodology to inventory trails across the state. The database is useful for planners working across jurisdictions because it includes both existing and proposed trails. A password-protected, data-file transfer tool and the application will be available for planners by the end of the month through the Virginia Geographic Information Network.

Once funding can be made available, it is hoped that the existing trail component of this inventory can be put in a format for use by the general public. This effort will require coordination and proofing by dedicated local and/or regional data providers to insure that the information is correct and kept up to date. This tool would be a great asset to all levels of government in the promotion of health, recreation and community assets statewide.

Submit your articles and photos

If you have articles or photos about trails or trail solutions/best practices in Virginia that would be of interest to a statewide audience, please submit them for consideration in the quarterly Greenways and Trails E-News. Also of interest are organizational strategies that work and other tips for trail advocates. Send text and photos to jennifer.wampler@dcv.virginia.gov.

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